

## COA Meeting Notes

March 8, 2023

Peg called the meeting to order at 10am. Members present: Peg Nogueira, Earl Pearlman, Carol Kotros, Dona Son, Phil Cieply, Ann Vandersluis and Director, Amy Wilson-Kent. Diane Howell was absent. Also present: Betsy Edsall, Friends' Vice President and Alejna Brugos, Select Board/COA liaison.

The meeting was being recorded so we introduced ourselves with our titles.

The Secretary and Treasurer's reports were unanimously approved. Amy gave a brief Director report with the rest interspersed throughout. In regard to the open van driver position, the HR Director put it back on the website. The position would cover time conflicts when the regular drivers are not available. Also, the 6 week My Life, My Health program being sponsored by Tri-Valley for caregivers has been widely advertised but so far only one person has signed up. Amy will give it a little more time, but it may have to be cancelled.

TriValley-Report—Dona Son reported last meeting's discussion was about nutrition and the budget.

Friends Report—Betsy Edall reported that the Friends/COA budget of \$5100 was approved by their board; Chris Gemme will chair the June 10, 2023 Progressive Yard Sale; the Friends are sponsoring three events in March: Ukraine/Putin Presentation, March 14 the annual St. Patrick's celebration and dinner with entertainment by Orchestra of One and Music Bingo on March 30 followed by a pizza luncheon; Walter Ramsey is their new Scholarship Coordinator—requirements delivered to the

schools are senior center volunteer service and an essay; the trip committee has planned three trips; the Dairy Queen fund raiser brought in \$410; next meeting Monday, March 13 at 10:30am.

## Old Business

Food Pantry—there is a large shopping today to stock up on essentials; Amy is trying to reduce deliveries by encouraging clients or their caretakers to come in on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday to shop; volunteers will continue to fill orders for those that want it; all in all the pantry is running smoothly.

Senior Center Expansion—Phil gave us an update; seems he has been very busy; he met with Anne Mazar and Jack Hunter to review how the expansion interacts with the Affordable Housing Project regarding land, water and septic; he spoke with Joel Frisch to review water and septic requirements; he met with Lawney Tinio to get support from the Select Board for an ATM article to request \$50K for engineering services; he met with Architect Mike Petrovick to review a design to increase the expansion from 4200 to 6000 Sq.Ft.; he had several calls with Amy to review activities to gain understanding of why we need to expand; good work, Phil!

Driver Safety-Providence St—the speed limit signs are for 40 mph which the COA Board feels is still too fast; Amy and Alejna are meeting with Chief Kurczy today to find out how to petition for a 35mph speed limit.

FY-24 Budget—Mar 15 meeting with FinCom and Select Board @ 8:30pm; Amy said the expense line items are the same as 15 years ago; the salary line for Amy needs adjusting due to 2% cost of living increase; she will meet with Town Admin Kim to discuss.

Conflict of Interest/Ethics Training—needs to be completed by March 21; let Amy know when you are done.

Annual Report & Statistics for 2022—Amy provided us an updated statistics report which reflected a few changes.

Volunteer Appreciation-May 17—sub-committee had one meeting with a second on tap; the invitations will say “Thank You Kindly” at the top; Cowboy theme with bandanas and cowboy hats for all; the favors are trail mix and a five in one use tool purchased previously; the menu from Oliva’s is pulled pork sliders, potato salad, cole slaw, corn bread and chirros; the magician will perform at 11am with lunch to follow.

#### New Business

MCOA Small & Rural Conference-April 26, 9:30am to 3:30pm at Devens Commons Center in Devins MA; open to COA Board and senior center staff; Amy needs to know who would like to go.

CPR Training—Wed May 3, 1pm-Amy needs to know how many are signing up.

#### Open Forum

Our next meeting is April 12 at 10am. Also on this date at 1pm is a Historical Women presentation by Sheryl Faye portraying Eleanor Roosevelt and made possible by a Cultural Council grant.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Vandersluis, Secretary